

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

**[0059]** A pipelined escape character insertion component sequentially includes a character specific gap inserter and an expansion component. The gap inserter inserts gaps into blocks of data in a received data stream in which data elements within the blocks correspond to control elements. The expansion component receives the blocks of data elements with the inserted gaps and rearranges the gaps to positions adjacent to the data elements that correspond to the control elements. Additionally, an escape character follows the expansion component and inserts escape characters in the inserted gaps.